

**Citizens Police Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2015
Asheville Police Department**

Present: Chair Jay Gurney, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Larry Holt, Interim Chief Steve Belcher, Deputy Chief Wade Wood, Capt Reece-Young, Chief Burnette, Sgt Evan Coward, Sgt Brien Griffin, Sgt Michael Lamb, Crime Prevention Officer Keith McCulloch, Paul Fetherston, Marsha Stickford

Guests: Marta Alcala-Williams, Calvin Allen, Betty Council, Keith de Blasio, Sir Charles Gardner, Kendra Latham, Rev James Lee, IIndia Pearson, Tracy Thompson

Meeting: Called to order by Chair Gurney at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- February minutes approved with revision of final vote.

New Business:

Perceptions of policing in public housing

- Marta Alcala-Williams, Parent/Community Engagement Coordinator for Asheville City Schools, spoke to the need to hear from leaders of the public housing community before recommending to City Council continuing the funding of the APD Public Housing team; that financial resources might be better channeled into funding for training purposes

Historic Training for APD

- Rev Lee spoke to the impact of the negative history between the black community and the police department

Public Comment:

- Calvin Allen, Keith de Blasio, Sir Charles Gardner, Kendra Latham, and IIndia Pearson shared with the Committee that they did not agree with the City of Asheville funding police officers dedicated to the public housing units; that there were better uses for the money, as the presence of the officers had a negative impact on the community
- Betty Council spoke in support of peer community mediation and for looking at ways to communicate other than the website
- Rev Lee referenced the impact of non-verbal communication

APD & City Staff Update:

Update from Fire Chief Burnette on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan

- Continuing to move forward with employee engagement piece
- Bringing everything together, then deciding best way to move forward
- More information next month – inventory of what has been accomplished, “progress scorecard”

Update on Search for new Chief of Police – Paul Fetherston

- Three community input sessions held; feedback posted on City's website; get any additional feedback to Dawa Hitch or himself
- Candidate profile should be approved and published by mid-March; finalists identified late April / early May; will have community meet & greet with finalists; will have community participation on interview panels

Update from Chief Belcher

- 12 or so in FTO program
- 6 new officers in BLET
- Merrimon Avenue traffic study complete; will give report next meeting
- Explorers participated in national training session and competition in Gatlinburg
- Members of Housing Unit participated in Battle of the Bands in ATL
- Job fairs: AB Tech, ASU, Mars Hill, UNCA
- 15 officers just became Senior Police Officers
- Graduated 16 officers from Crisis Intervention Training
- Graffiti clean-up efforts w/other City departments going well; 140 property owners participated in clean-up efforts the day after four arrests made on Dave Steel property
- Hosted gang investigation conference last week
- Spring Citizens Police Academy starting March 5; looking at adding youth academy, and Spanish speaking academy
- Another Coffee with a Cop Saturday, March 7, 8a – 10a, Cornerstone Restaurant on Tunnel Rd
- Honor Guard presenting at Southern Conference Basketball Championships on Saturday, March 5, noon game at the US Cellular Center
- CID held their first annual chili cook-off; great fun had by all
- PIO interviews this week

Community Policing

- Sgt Brien Griffin gave the powerpoint presentation (attached)

National Night Out

- Marsha Stickford, Neighborhood Coordinator, asked for support from CPAC in the planning of National Night Out, to be held in August; this year the intent is to have events in all parts of Asheville, not just in one location as in previous years

Unfinished Business

Recommendation to City Council to continue funding the Housing Authority team

- Continued discussion re recommendation to City Council to continue funding five officers (of ten) for the Housing Authority team; vote: 3-0 in support of recommendation (D Applewhite, L Holt, Sgt M Lamb), 2 abstained (C Rogoff Hallstrom, C Joslin), 1 recused (J Gurney)

Adjourned: 5:00p

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 3:00 p.m.